

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/954,884	CRAGUN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sana Al-Hashemi	2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/24/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-28,30-32 and 35-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/7/05</u>. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|


ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant's amendment filed 11/24/04.
2. Claims 1-28, and 30-32, and 35-40, were amended, Claims 29-33, and 34 are canceled.

None were added.

3. Claims 1-28, and 30-32, and 35-40, as amended are allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-28, and 30-32, and 35-40 are allowed over the prior art of record.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding independent claims 1, 10, 18, 26, and 35, the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the claimed provision of: receiving a search expression including one or more search terms each having one or more weighting criteria each comprising a weight criterion and a corresponding user-designated score modifier applicable to the respective weight criterion wherein the one or more weight criteria each describe a characteristic that the respective search term must satisfy with respect to candidate documents and wherein the corresponding user-designated score modifier provides a user-designated weight to the respective weight criterion, in conjunction with remaining claim provisions is not taught or suggested, or obvious over the prior art of record or that encountered in searching the invention

6. The dependent claims 2-27, 31, and 36-39, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

Comments

Art Unit: 2161

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

7. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, Applicant's response must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP section 707.07(a).

Other Prior Art Made of Record

1. Wical Kelly (US Patent No. 5,953,718) discloses research mode for a knowledge base search and retrieval system.
2. Durand et al. (US Patent No. 6,272,467) discloses System for data collection and matching compatible profiles.
3. Ponte (US Patent No. 6,353,825) discloses a Method and device for classification using iterative information retrieval techniques.

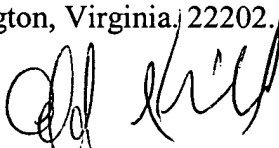
Art Unit: 2161

4. Riply (US Patent No. 6,745,001) discloses system and method for sharing data between hierarchical databases.
5. Ma et al. (US Patent No. 6,697,802) discloses systems and methods for pairwise analysis of event data.

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to: Sana Al-Hashemi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (571) 272-4023. Any response to this office action should be mailed to: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231. Or telefax at phone number (703) 872-9306. For formal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT". Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, 6th Floor Receptionist, Arlington, Virginia, 22202.

Sana Al-Hashemi
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100
February 7, 2005



ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER